



"We believe that interdisciplinary studies have special educational value, for they teach students to relate the many aspects of human endeavor and achievement and to approach problems from many sides. These courses encourage intellectual curiosity, engender an appreciation for precise and cogent communication, and stimulate new ways of looking at the past, present, and future. All these attributes seem to us important for women who will occupy responsible positions in society and who must seek to solve society's problems in the future."

—Harold B. Whiteman, Jr.,
President

SWEET BRIAR MEETS NEH CHALLENGE

Sweet Briar, among the first colleges in the nation to receive a major National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant, is the first college in Virginia to match its grant—with time and money to spare.

The College met its goal of \$585,000 this past April, thereby qualifying for a grant of \$195,000. By the time of its June deadline, Sweet Briar had raised a total of \$630,000.

Under the terms of the 3-to-1 challenge grant, the College had to raise \$3 in private funds from new donors or in gift increases from regular donors in order to qualify for \$1 from the NEH. The National Endowment made the award in August 1977 and gave Sweet Briar three years in which to meet its goal.

The NEH Challenge Grant program was designed to strengthen

the fund-raising capacities and financial status of the colleges and universities receiving grants. Sweet Briar's fund-raising efforts included inviting alumnae, parents of students, and other friends of the College to a series of audio-visual programs on interdisciplinary studies in the humanities, seeking to convey the intellectual excitement of the programs in European Civilization, Asian Studies, and Environmental Studies and majors in American, French, German, and Italian Studies.

Over the three-year period, the Dean and other faculty made presentations to alumnae groups in Dallas, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New York City, Westchester County, N.Y., Southern Connecticut, Princeton, N.J., Wilmington, Del., Boston, Denver, and Philadelphia.

At Sweet Briar, a program on interdisciplinary programs in the humanities was a major feature of the April 1980 meeting of the President's Parents Council. Codirectors of the project were Gregory T. Armstrong, professor of religion, and Julia Mills Jacobsen '45, director of government relations and sponsored programs.

"This program has clearly assisted us in developing new and substantial sources of financial support," said President Harold B. Whiteman, Jr., in announcing Sweet Briar's successful completion of its Challenge Grant campaign. "The challenge program is of great value not only to Sweet Briar and other colleges, but to the humanities in a broad sense."

April's program on interdisciplinary studies in the humanities held the attention of President's Parents Council members.



THE CHALLENGE: NEW AND INCREASED GIFTS

The NEH Challenge Grant in the Humanities was one of the most rigorous matching gift programs ever undertaken by Sweet Briar. The \$585,000 to be raised had to represent new and increased gifts in order to qualify under the terms of the grant. Increases in donations were compared with an established base year, in Sweet Briar's case 1976—the 75th Anniversary year of the College. That was the year Sweet Briar alumnae set a national record of 64 percent participation in alumnae giving. Under such conditions, it is even more significant that 57 per cent of the total \$630,000 raised in qualifying gifts came from 4,949 alumnae who contributed

\$360,000. Over 500 parents of current students and alumnae gave \$126,000 and eight foundations accounted for \$139,000. The balance of funds received came from friends and members of the Sweet Briar community.

The largest contribution received for the NEH Challenge Grant came through Mrs. Samuel E. Upchurch, Ann Samford '48, who designated a unitrust from her mother's estate establishing the Samford Chair in History, thus directly benefiting interdisciplinary studies at the College.

The second largest grant was a \$124,000 contribution from the Corrigan Foundation of Dallas, Texas. This Foundation was established by

Mr. and Mrs. Leo F. Corrigan, whose daughter Louise (Mrs. Edwin B. Jordan) is a member of Sweet Briar's class of 1939. Mrs. Corrigan, Leo F. Corrigan, Jr., and Mrs. Jordan are Trustees of the Foundation, which is being terminated.

The College is extremely pleased to have completed the NEH Challenge Grant Program in the Humanities by exceeding the original target. We are grateful to those alumnae, parents, and friends who again helped to distinguish Sweet Briar's academic program in this important way.

—F. Mark Whittaker
Director of Development

ENDOWING THE HUMANITIES: INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The NEH funds awarded Sweet Briar are being used to support the interdisciplinary programs in the humanities in a variety of ways. The grant has provided released time for a part-time director of interdisciplinary studies, who is a faculty member serving on a rotating basis, and for the on-campus Challenge Grant director, also a faculty member serving part-time to coordinate fund-raising activities and administer program funds. The largest portion of funds has gone into faculty grants for summer study and curriculum development; instructional materials and equipment, including books, periodicals, films, slides, and tapes; visiting lecturers; and conferences on inter-

disciplinary studies in the humanities.

The matching funds—the gifts and grants that have come from foundations, corporations, and individuals—will establish a permanent endowment to support interdisciplinary studies in the humanities.

The NEH Challenge Grant has had a direct effect upon teaching at Sweet Briar. "The grant has propelled me beyond the limits of my competence—you can decide for yourself whether that is good or bad," said John Savarese, assistant professor of English. "It enabled me to share the classroom for a whole semester with a colleague who ticks differently and whose discipline

functions differently from mine. I learned about different teaching strategies, and caught glints of a whole new way of viewing my own subject matter. The students had the opportunity to compare our different angles of vision.

"The grant has given me the time and the impetus to extend my range to history, sociology, economics, and art history," Savarese continued. "But most important was the encouragement to think creatively about the subject matter in which I am trained, and to go beyond the usual conventions that govern its presentation in the classroom. In short, the grant has helped me to travel—and not just to Boston, Newark, and Blacksburg, Virginia."

Parents gathered on the Bistro patio to hear faculty panelists discuss curriculum choices at Sweet Briar.



Browning Augustine '81 and Professors Gilberte Van Treese (French), Milan Hapala (Government), and Gerald Berg (History) stressed the wide range of academic options at Sweet Briar.

The NEH Challenge Grant enabled Milan Hapala, Carter Glass professor of government, to participate in the summer of 1979 in a study tour of the People's Republic of China. "After 30 years of teaching Chinese politics and economics I was able to compare the 'real' China with the country and the people I knew from books," Professor Hapala said. "My practical and theoretical examination of the linkages of the economic and political systems of the People's Republic of China has confirmed my belief in the essential role of the interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research in the social sciences and the humanities."



Aileen Laing

The interrelationship between the humanities and sciences was demonstrated in the laboratory to students who took "Art and Chemistry," a Winter Term course developed under an NEH grant by Helen Gager, associate professor of chemistry, and Susan Bandes, assistant professor of art.

Other faculty, not mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin, have participated in the NEH Challenge Grant project. They are: Gerald M. Berg, assistant professor of history, Joan R. Kent, associate professor of history, Robert G. Marshall, professor of French, Lee Piepho, associate professor of English, Richard C. Rowland, Charles A. Dana professor of English, John R. Shannon, professor of music, Paul C. Taylor, associate professor of history, Gilberte G. Van Treese, professor of French, and Glenn Van Treese, associate professor of French.



Nancy Bradley-Cromey

Nancy Bradley-Cromey, associate professor of French and Italian and a regular participant in conferences on medieval studies, was awarded a sabbatical leave grant from NEH Challenge Grant funds for a study of narration in the *lais* of Marie de France. Her project is a part of a five-year, multidisciplinary study of the Court of Champagne under the auspices of the International Courtly Literature Society.

Aileen Laing, associate professor of art history, used NEH funds in preparing two courses in European Civilization: "I. Primi Lumi: Art and Literature in the Fourteenth Century," and "Anxiety and Ambition: Europe in the 14th and Early 15th Centuries." She commented, "I find interdisciplinary teaching extremely challenging as I delve into disciplines allied to my own. The result is often a deepening of the understanding of my own field as I begin to see it in a broader context. My teaching and my own life become richer as a result."

Kenneth Grimm, associate professor of government, and Ronald Horwege, associate professor of German, have an NEH grant to prepare a European Civilization colloquium on "The Rise of German Nationalism" and to continue work on an anthology dealing with German nationalism.

378.75
S

Address Correction Requested

SWEET BRIAR,
VIRGINIA 24595

April, June

December,

September,

Published in

LYNCHBURG VA 24503

RIVERMONT AVE

ACCESSIONS AND GIFTS DEPT

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

June 1980

USPS 078-700

COLLEGE

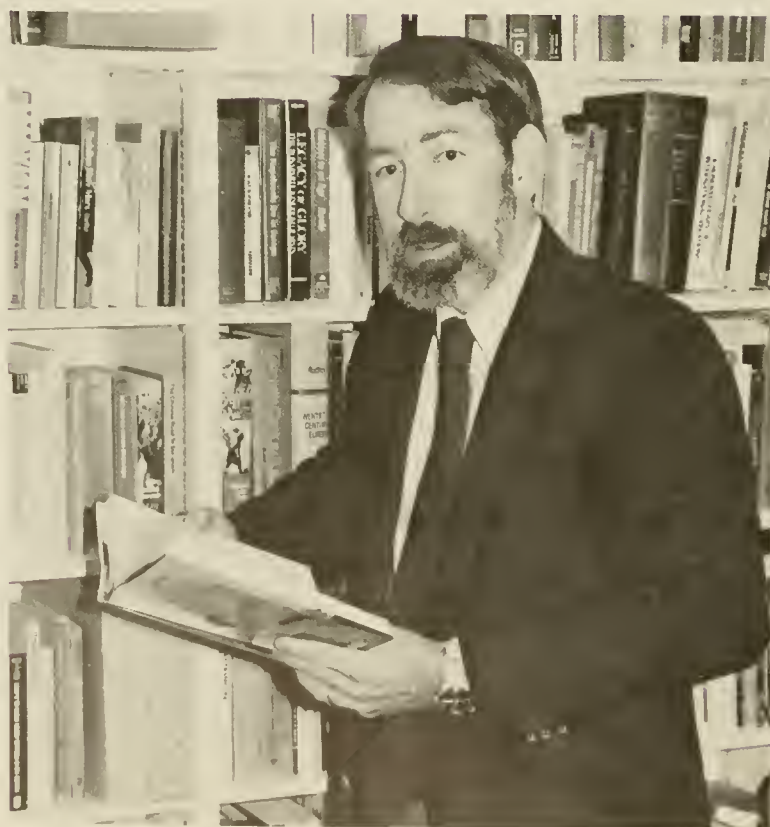
BRIAR

SWEET

OF

bulletin

Second Class
Postage
PAID
at Sweet Briar,
Va 24595



"One of the most important advantages of a small school is that people in different disciplines have opportunities to talk with one another. The NEH Challenge Grant has made this kind of discussion even more likely by giving faculty the time and resources to explore disciplines other than their own and to find common ground. In my case, I especially enjoyed a course I taught with Lee Piepho of the English Department, and I am looking forward to another collaborative course this fall with Diane Moran of the Art History Department."

—Michael D. Richards
Associate Professor of History
Director of Interdisciplinary Studies